

Weekly Column for July 12, 2007

If you can't guess what today's topic will be, you have either been on vacation, or else stayed very cool this week.

By now, most people have heard about, or dealt with, the situation involving National Grid. On Tuesday morning, most of the City of Troy was left without power, and it was hours before we knew why, or how long it would be out.

Eventually we did find out that the City was taken off of the grid to save other parts of the region. Scattered outages continued to occur throughout Tuesday, but for the most part order was restored by Wednesday.

While it was a stressful day, it was important to note that the City came together in very quick fashion. Cooling stations were opened, the Red Cross was called in, swimming pool hours extended, fire hydrants popped, extra police brought in, and a host of other activities to make sure we were ready for a long-term outage, as the limited communication we had with National Grid led us to believe that power may not be restored for 36 hours.

Thankfully, that was not the case.

For the past few days we have had discussions with National Grid about their performance this week. While we fully understand that sometimes outages are not something anyone can control, we are disappointed with the lack of communication the company displayed. On Wednesday they apologized for their performance, and while we accept that, we continue to search for more answers.

First thing Wednesday, we requested that the Public Service Commission investigate the outage and response. We are grateful that the PSC has agreed to just that.

I have heard from many people about the hardships that took place Tuesday, from restaurants to retail stores, to residents. Each case is very serious, and we will be talking shortly with the PSC about any potential recourse.

We are confident after the meeting with National Grid on Wednesday that it will improve its response to situations that may arise. This time, we dodged some bullets.

If you have any questions, comments, complaints about the situation in Troy this week, please do not hesitate to contact me at mayorsoffice@troyny.gov

Have a great weekend

Harry J Tutunjian

Mayor of Troy